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LB 446A

had discussions with the city officials and League of Municipalities, with the County Officials, and everyone agreed that we really need to do this project and we need to do it right. But we were concerned about the money. As a result of those discussions, and I give Senator Tyson a good deal of credit for providing continued leadership on this bill. It was discussed that since this communication system will eventually, hopefully, be a partnership and used extensively by the state and by all political entities, including cities and including counties and all emergency systems and so forth, that maybe the partnership could start somehow with this funding mechanism to get this study and consultant work done. So, as a result of that, it was suggested and the amendment provides that of this \$600,000 that during the first fiscal year General Funds will provide \$100,000. There would be a reduction of the state aid to municipalities of \$100,000, which would provide another third, and another \$100,000 reduction of state aid to counties, which would provide the other third of the funding, and that would continue for the second fiscal year. So we would have basically the project costs being shared, one-third by state, one-third by cities, and one-third by counties. And I do think this is an investment in all of our futures with respect to the very much needed area of communications, and that it will bear fruit for us in time to come. And it's really time to do the project, to get the best possible help that we can to devise a proposal and see what that costs. And I very much appreciate, not only the senators who are willing to work on this, but also the cities and the counties who are willing to step up to the plate and recognize that this is a very important project and they're willing to invest some of their own dollars at this point. So that's the amendment, Mr. President. And I'd certainly hope that we could see fit to adopt it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bromm. For discussion on the Bromm amendment to LB 446A, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body. I, too, support this and am pleased it was able to work it out. It was a significant amount of money. Remind the body that we are headed for a sizable amount of expenditure down the road. I think it's something that we need, and I'm pleased that we're able to share this burden fairly equally among cities, counties